

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJ: SOHYO'S CONVENTION OPENS

REF: TOKYO 9665

SUMMARY: AT OPENING OF SOHYO CONVENTION ON JULY 19, OPPOSITION PARTY RHETORIC OVERSHADOWED BY MEDIA INTEREST IN CHOICE OF NEW LEADERSHIP. WHILE NATIONAL RAILWAY UNION SEC GEN, TOMIZUKA, CERTAIN TO BE CHOSEN SOHYO SEC GEN THERE STILL NO AGREEMENT ON CHAIRMANSHIP. SOHYO "MAINSTREAM" MODERATES TRYING TO CONVINCE TRUCKERS UNION (ZENNITSU) PRES NAKAGAWA TO ACCEPT POST. END SUMMARY.

1. SOHYO'S 1976 REGULAR CONVENTION OPENED JULY 19 FOR FIVE-DAY RUN WITH SPEECHES BY OUTGOING CHAIRMAN ICHIKAWA, SOCIALIST PARTY (JSP) CHAIRMAN NARITA, AND LEADERS OF COMMUNIST PARTY (JCP), KOMEITO AND FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT UNIONS (CHURITSU ROREN).

2. ICHIKAWA, WHILE ADMITTING "FAILURE" OF THIS YEAR'S SPRING WAGE NEGOTIATIONS, CLAIMED THAT JAPANESE LABOR MOVEMENT CAN PROGRESS IN PERIOD OF LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH ONLY THROUGH "CONFRONTATION" WITH GOVERNMENT AND MANAGEMENT. HE CHARGED THAT DOMEI AND IMF-JC'S COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR LOW WAGE

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INCREASES AND LAYOFFS DURING RECENT RECESSION. HE

CLAIMED THAT, "THANKS TO LOCKHEED," PROGRESSIVES ARE WITHIN SHOOTING RANGE OF POLITICAL POWER AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF SOHYO'S CONTINUING ITS EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT OF JSP, THE "MOST SUITABLE PARTY TO TAKE OVER REINS OF GOVERNMENT."

3. JSP CHAIRMAN NARITA, ELABORATING ON ICHIKAWA'S THEME, CALLED FOR UNITED FRONT OF ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES AND SAID THAT LAB PROFITS FROM SPLIT IN OPPOSITION RANKS, BUT URGED SOHYO TO CONTINUE ITS EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT OF JSP. ONLY NEGATIVE REFERENCE TO U.S. MADE BY JCP ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL KANEKO, WHO SAID LOCKHEED INCIDENT IS LOGICAL OUTGROWTH OF POST-WAR JAPANESE POLITICAL SYSTEM INITIATED UNDER OCCUPATION BY AMERICANS WHO PLACED "WAR CRIMINALS IN POWER. KOMEITO SEC GEN YANO TOOK OPPOSITE TACK BY WARNING AGAINST IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED POLITICAL PARTIES.

4. MEDIA ATTENTION FOCUSED ON LEADERSHIP QUESTION AS SOHYO CHAIRMAN ICHIKAWA AND SEC GEN OHKI RECONFIRMED THEIR INTENTION NOT TO STAND FOR RE-ELECTION. BEHIND THE SCENS BARGAINING AMONG LEADERS OF SOHYO'S PRINCIPAL AFFILIATES HAS RESULTED IN SELECTION OF NATIONAL RAILWAY UNION (KOKURO) SEC GEN, MITSUO TOMIZUKA, AS NEW SOHYO SEC GEN, BUT THERE STILL NO AGREEMENT ON ICHIKAWA'S REPLACEMENT AS CHAIRMAN. PRIVATE RAILWAY UNION (SHITETSU SOREN) CHAIRMAN RIKITOKU HAS TAKEN HIMSELF OUT OF RACE, REPORTEDLY AFTER BEING CONVINCED BY MAJOR PRIVATE RAILWAY COMPANIES TO RUN IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION NEXT YEAR. SOHYO'S "MAINSTREAM" (I.E. SUPPORTERS OF SOCIALIST PARTY) FAVOR JAPAN EXPRESS TRUCK DRIVERS UNION (ZENNITSU) PRES YUTAKA NAKAGAWA FOR CHAIRMANSHIP BUT HE, UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE FROM COMPANY, CONTINUES TO DECLINE THE HONOR. ONLY ACTIVE CANDIDATE IS METALWORKERS (ZENKOKU KINZOKU) PRES GOSAKU SATAKE. SOHYO'S MAINSTREAM ELEMENTS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT HIM BECAUSE OF HIS EXTREMELY CLOSE TIES TO JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY (JCP), AND THEY ARE CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PERSUADE NAKAGAWA TO ACCEPT POST. HODGSON

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